

## REVIEW OF SPECIAL BRANCH GUIDELINES

You asked me to establish precisely when the ACPO Crime Committee is next scheduled to meet. They will meet again on Wednesday, 9 May at Thames Valley Police Headquarters. After this, they are not expected to meet again until mid-August.

2. If we are to ask them to consider the latest version of the draft guidelines, it will be necessary to circulate drafts to Peter Imbert and Maurice Buck no later than the week commencing 30 April at the very latest. Obviously the ongoing situation in St James' Square will affect the speed with which we can move. We have still received no response from [SyS Officer] to your note of 26 March (doc 58). I have therefore included in the draft guidelines aside at doc 59 the definition of terrorism used in the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The drafts will require Mr Harrington's approval and/or amendment before they can be circulated.

3. I see no reason why we cannot ask the Crime Committee for their comments on the drafts without the various annexes which will ultimately accompany them. This will allow Mr Sheldon more time to complete his review of them and their classifications.

4. I have attached aside a draft letter which Mr Harrington may care to send to Peter Imbert, Chairman of the Crime Committee. Copies should go, I think, to Maurice Buck (Hon Sec. to the Crime Committee), Mr Hall (President of ACPO), Mr Dellow, Mr Hewett, [SyS Officer] (or [SyS Officer]), Mr Oxford (who has a continuing interest) and [SHHD] (who will wish to approach ACPO(S)). Within the Home Office it might also be worthwhile copying the drafts to Mr Partridge, Mr [redacted] and HMCIC so that they are aware of the current state of play.

24/4/84.